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LDS Youth Jump & Jive at Mormon Prom

*Over 250 youth attend tri-stake
Mormon Prom, one of many
church-sponsored dances
valley-wide*

Dylan Rich and his date Dakota Cameron attended the tri-stake "MoPro" this past April. Both enjoyed the decorations and carnival games, but really appreciated the dance's high standards.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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cover story

Mormon Prom

Valley LDS Youth bust their moves on the dance floor



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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COVER Story

LDS Youth **Jump & Jive** at Mormon Prom



Youth from Buckeye, West Maricopa and Goodyear Stakes, along with dates from all over the Valley, bust their moves on the dance floor at the tri-stake prom.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Youth attend tri-stake Mormon Prom, one of many church-sponsored dances valley-wide

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

Mormon Prom promotes gospel standards and provides good, Clean Fun for Everyone

For a Church that preaches modesty, frugality and clean living to its youth, high school proms can be problematic.

This wasn't always the case: long considered a rite of passage for American teens, prom was a much humbler affair generations ago. A 1957 Norman Rockwell painting depicts a simply-dressed young couple sitting at a soda fountain for a post-prom snack—no limo, no designer dress, no four-star restaurant.

Fast forward a few generations and now proms seem more like dry runs for weddings. According to a recent Visa survey, American families in 2015 shelled out an average of \$918 for the event, covering such "essentials" as flowers, food, pictures, attire, transportation, after-parties and accommodations.

Expense and finery aside, the dance—often held outside

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Mormon Prom Continued from pg. 3

the school and therefore not as subject to regulation—can encourage a climate of hedonism in which parameters for moral behavior become blurred.

The solution? The “Mormal,” or “Mormon Prom,” a dance for 16-18 year-old youth that promotes traditional, old-fashioned dating in the face of “hang out” culture and adheres to

This year’s prom theme was vintage circus, with fun carnival photo ops and games and a circus ring dance floor.

the standards in the Church’s For the Strength of Youth pamphlet. Many stakes across the U.S. combine forces to offer a special night out for their youth and provide a safe alternative to high school proms.

“Mormon prom allows you to have a good time dancing and interacting without your morals and sensibilities being accosted by worldly influences, which is what happens at other dances,” says attendee Drew Hoenigman of the Dreaming Summit Ward, Goodyear Stake.

Eschewing bank-breaking and morally questionable prom trends, most Mormon prom-goers follow Church edicts to double date or group date and plan prom activities that are both frugal and fun.

“Basically, [Mormon prom] of-

fers a less expensive and more safe and wholesome environment,” says Bishop David Rengifo of the Western Skies Ward, Gilbert Stake.

Youth can struggle with trying to live in a world that celebrates instant gratification and often paints the Lord’s standards as out of date or too restrictive.

“We want our youth and their friends to see that they can have a lot of fun in a great, wholesome environment,” says President Kevin Quast, Second Counselor in the Goodyear Stake Presidency. Unlike the pressure of a high school prom night, “all of our youth know that standards found in For the Strength of Youth will be followed by everyone.”

Such dictates include not dating until the age of 16, following Church dress standards for modesty and grooming, and avoiding vulgar or suggestive music and dance moves. Non-members are welcome to the dance, but they too are interviewed by a bishop who explains and commits them to the standards of the Church for prom night.

“‘MoPro’ definitely promotes modest dress and appearance,” says Corte Sierra Ward teen Dakota Cameron. “It’s just always nice to know you’re surrounded by people who share the same standards as you.”

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Mormon Prom
Continued from pg. 4

While most of these principles come as second nature to the youth, who have been taught them all their lives, others are trickier—like finding a modest prom dress in a culture of back-baring and strapless gowns.

“Finding a modest dress these days that doesn’t look old fashioned isn’t easy,” says JaNel Stewart of the formalwear rental company All Dressed Up.

And such pretty dresses can cost a pretty penny. Church leaders encourage kids to be modest in dress, but also prudent in their spending, and many kids attending the church proms opt to borrow, trade or rent their gowns for the evening.

All these provisions don’t mean Mormon youth are ready to forgo all the mainstream prom trends—especially not the all-important “promposal,” a creative, often elaborate way to invite a date to the prom. Promposals are so popular that there are entire Pinterest boards and Youtube channels dedicated to the phenomenon.

Peoria Stake junior Laurel Bierman, of the Sun Valley Ward, came home to find a fish tank set up in her room that read, “Out of all the fish in the sea will you go to Mormon Prom with me?” Her response to Peoria North Stake junior Brigham Pratt, of

the Sunrise Mountain Ward, was a bag of Goldfish crackers: “Sure, I’ll go to prom with you...you made my ‘fish’ come true!”

“One of [Laurel’s] best friends got asked with a goat,” laughed Sister Lori Bierman, her mother. “‘Will you goat to prom with me?’ We were there and thought oh no! I hope she doesn’t have to provide a home for the baby goat!”

But Bishop Rengifo worries that promposal hype may deter the youth from asking someone out.

“I think the old-fashioned way of asking should be just fine,” Bishop Rengifo says. “And it’s good for asking face-to-face, which we need more of.”

Whether they were asked face-to-face or via viral video, over 250 young men and women from three West Valley stakes—Goodyear, West Maricopa and Buckeye—hit the dance floor for a tri-stake prom this past April. The prom is going on its 15th year in this part of the Valley.

In addition to the youth prom, the stakes also held an adult prom and a daddy-daughter dance for girls ages 3-16 and their fathers that same weekend, making full use of their decorations. The theme for all three dances



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Bethany Garvey (left) and Kirstynn Evans, both of the Goodyear Ward, along with other members of the Buckeye and West Maricopa Stakes, put hundreds of hours into prepping for the three dances: an adult prom, a youth prom, and a father-daughter dance.

was “Under the Big Top,” a vintage circus fantasy complete with popcorn and cotton candy, magicians and fortune tellers, and plenty of fun fair games.

“We involve youth in selecting the theme each year...and then our adults go to work,” says President Quast, citing the small army of adult volunteers who manage all aspects of the prom from music to food to decorations. Hundreds of hours went into the preparation and execution of the big nights. “It is a lot of work for our dedicated adults,” he adds.

A lot of work, perhaps—but work

that made the night magical for the youth.

“I liked the games, the dancing, the food, taking pictures. I felt like it was a special night—not just for me, but for everyone. Everyone seemed happy,” said Dylan Rich of Goodyear Stake’s Corte Sierra Ward.

Pictures may fade and flowers wilt. What remains from the church-sponsored prom is a message to the youth—one of encouragement, safety and love.

“Church prom helps the youth see that they can not only keep those standards but they can have fun doing it!” affirms Sister

Bethany Garvey, who chaired the Goodyear Stake’s prom committee this year.

President Quast recounts a story of a sister leader dancing with a young woman at the tri-stake prom.

“The leader looked into her [the young woman’s] eyes, and said, ‘We do this for you because we love you and we want you to be happy.’”

The experience that so touched this young woman underscores the meaning of prom for President Quast: “That is what prom is all about. That is why we do it.”

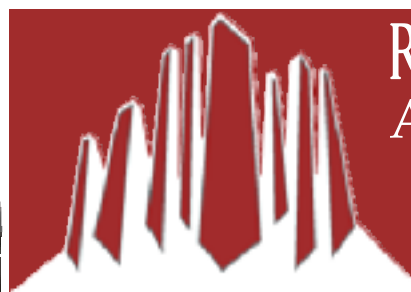


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Fourth Generation



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Photo courtesy Nathan Johnson

Watson Flowers, a fourth-generation family business, owned by Nathan (I) and Jacob Johnson, prides itself in offering the "highest quality flowers with the best possible service at a reasonable price."

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

Flowers, and working together as a family to grow and sell them, is a tradition that dates back to 1927 for Nathan and Jacob Johnson, owners of Watson Flower Shops in Mesa.

The brothers and their families still live on the property where their great-grandparents, Charles and Irene Watson, settled in 1922. On the 18-acre farm on West Main Street, Charles and Irene tried their hands at chicken farming at first. By 1927, however, they were in the flower business—thanks to Irene's "green thumb," the internship

training she had received at Brown's Flower Shop in Utah, and the fact that their property was near the old Southside Hospital. People had learned that, on their way to the hospital, they could swing by with a tin can and Irene would fill it with flowers for 25 cents.

Shortly after hanging up their sign and making their business official, Irene purchased 5,000 rose bushes and started selling them door to door in Mesa. The endeavor not only earned her a profit of a dime each, she quickly became known as "The Rose Lady."

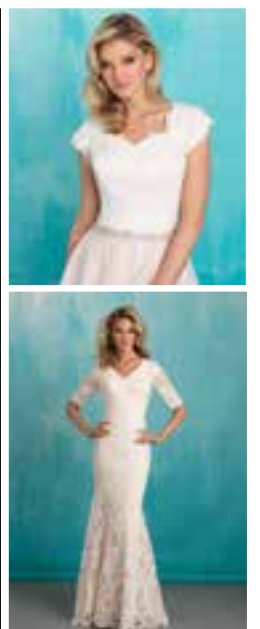
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Fourth Generation Florists
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In 1946, the flower shop ownership was passed to one of Charles and Irene's daughters, Eva, and her husband, James Ernest Johnson, Sr. Eva and Ernie established three branch locations in the East Valley and franchises in Tucson and Flagstaff.

When Ernie passed away in 1950, Eva closed the other locations, but continued to run the west Mesa operation until 1976, when her son, David Johnson and his wife, Pam, took over management. They continued running the business and growing flowers on the family farm until 2009, when they retired.

"Now, my wife [Valerie] and I live and work right here on the original property, and Jacob [with his wife, Wendy] lives in the other house," Nathan says. "Our kids are the fifth generation to grow up here. What we do for work, where we live—this is our family history."

Nathan graduated from Arizona State University with a finance degree. Jacob, too, is an ASU graduate, with a degree in management. Both became certified Arizona State Master Florists in 2006 and Jacob was recently elected to the Arizona Floral Association Board of Directors. Both have held leadership roles in the Tempe Apache Boulevard Association.

Nathan says he and Jacob "are

eager to uphold the family tradition of growing and selling the longest lasting, highest quality flowers at a reasonable price."

They also are committed to continuing the family tradition of Church service and adherence to gospel principles. Nathan, who currently serves as the bishop of the Alma Ward, Mesa Alma Stake, says, "Our father was bishop of this ward 17 years ago, and our parents are serving in the Nauvoo Illinois Mission right now."

Their parents stopped opening the shop on Mother's Day more than 15 years ago, even though it was traditionally one of their busiest days.

Still, this year, when Valentine's Day fell on Sunday, Nathan worried about closing.

"Valentine's Day is always our busiest day. You can't just turn off that revenue stream," he says.

The family decided to honor the Sabbath. As a result, Valentine's Days sales were not only about the same as any other year, but this year, the Saturday-only sales surpassed what they did on Saturday and Sunday combined the year they opened on Sunday for Valentine's Day.

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LDS BUSINESS LEADERS

RECEIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Community leaders James A. and Carol May, as well as Roc Arnett, have each recently been recognized for their many contributions of service and excellence in their respective fields.

Brother and Sister May of the Mesa Mountain View Stake's Thayer Park



Courtesy of SweetLeaf Stevia Sweetener

James A. May and his wife Carol May were recently inducted into the Hall of Legends at the Natural Products Expo West.

Ward have been recognized for more than 30 years of hard work in bringing stevia, an alternative natural sweetener, to market. James A. May was one of the first people to introduce stevia to the United States. On March 11, 2016, he and his wife Carol were inducted into the Hall of Legends at the Natural Products Expo West in Anaheim, California.

What began as a small Arizona-based business in their home garage has grown into an international company. Brother May is the founder and CEO of Wisdom Natural Brands®, the parent company of SweetLeaf®, a manufacturer of stevia products, and Sister May is the company president. Together they have raised five chil-

dren while building Wisdom Natural Brands®. The company was honored with the President's "E" Award, the highest recognition any U.S. entity can receive for making significant contributions to the growth of U.S. exports.

SweetLeaf® Stevia Sweetener products have won more than 21 awards for taste and innovation. Brother May, known as the "Father of Stevia," has been recognized by the American Stevia Foundation and the President of Paraguay for his work in that country.



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Roc Arnett (left), recipient of Leaders of Faith Lifetime Achievement Award with Jon McHatton, the director of outreach for Congressman Matt Salmon's office.

Sister May was awarded the Lifetime Achievement in Business and named Female Executive of the Year and one of Arizona's Most Influential Women in Business.

Brother Roc Arnett and his wife

Sydney are members of the Mesa 30th Ward, Mesa East Stake. A native of Mesa, Brother Arnett was called by Elder Wilford Anderson to be the Metro Phoenix Public Affairs Counsel Director about 12 years ago. This opportunity allows him to build bridges with members of other faiths.

At the 5th Annual East Valley Mayors' Prayer Breakfast held at Chandler-Gilbert Community College on March 16, 2016, Roc Arnett was awarded the Leaders of Faith Lifetime Achievement Award.

Brother Arnett has arranged lunches for Catholic bishops and leading staff of the diocese with visiting members of the local Area Seventy. He also hosted a reception prior to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir performing in Phoenix for 500 people, many of whom were not Latter-day Saints.

"Arranging and participating in the special guest events of the Gilbert and Phoenix Temple Open Houses was one of the highlights of my church service," says Brother

Arnett. He invited Arizona Governor Jan Brewer to luncheons at both temple open houses. Having already been a guest at the Gila Valley Temple Open House, she called being at the Phoenix Temple her "trifecta of temple visits."

Life brings change, but families are *forever*



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Backstage Miracles

at the Mesa Temple EASTER PAGEANT

By Allison Beckert
The Beehive

The Mesa Temple's Easter Pageant draws visitors from around the country to witness the life of the Savior in a one-of-a-kind performance. The performers, however, experience the show in powerful, often life-changing ways. Sister Brenda Perry performed with her family in this year's pageant for the first time, and it served as both a culminating event in her life and a very personal application of the Savior's Atonement.

Sister Perry is from Mexico City, and her connection to the Mesa Temple began with her mission call. She served in Arizona at the time the Phoenix and

Tempe Missions split to form the Mesa Mission, and she loved the power of the Mesa Temple's Christmas lights and Easter Pageant to forward the work.

When President Nigel Wappett was appointed to head the Mesa Mission in 2001, he immediately noticed something was wrong with the young sister missionary. President Wappett was a doctor and had serious concerns about Sister Perry's health. After several weeks of tests, Sister Perry was diagnosed with a rare blood disorder — spherocytosis. Her blood cells, which took an unnatural shape, were being



Photo courtesy of Brenda Perry

The Perry family in costume for the Mesa Temple Easter Pageant.

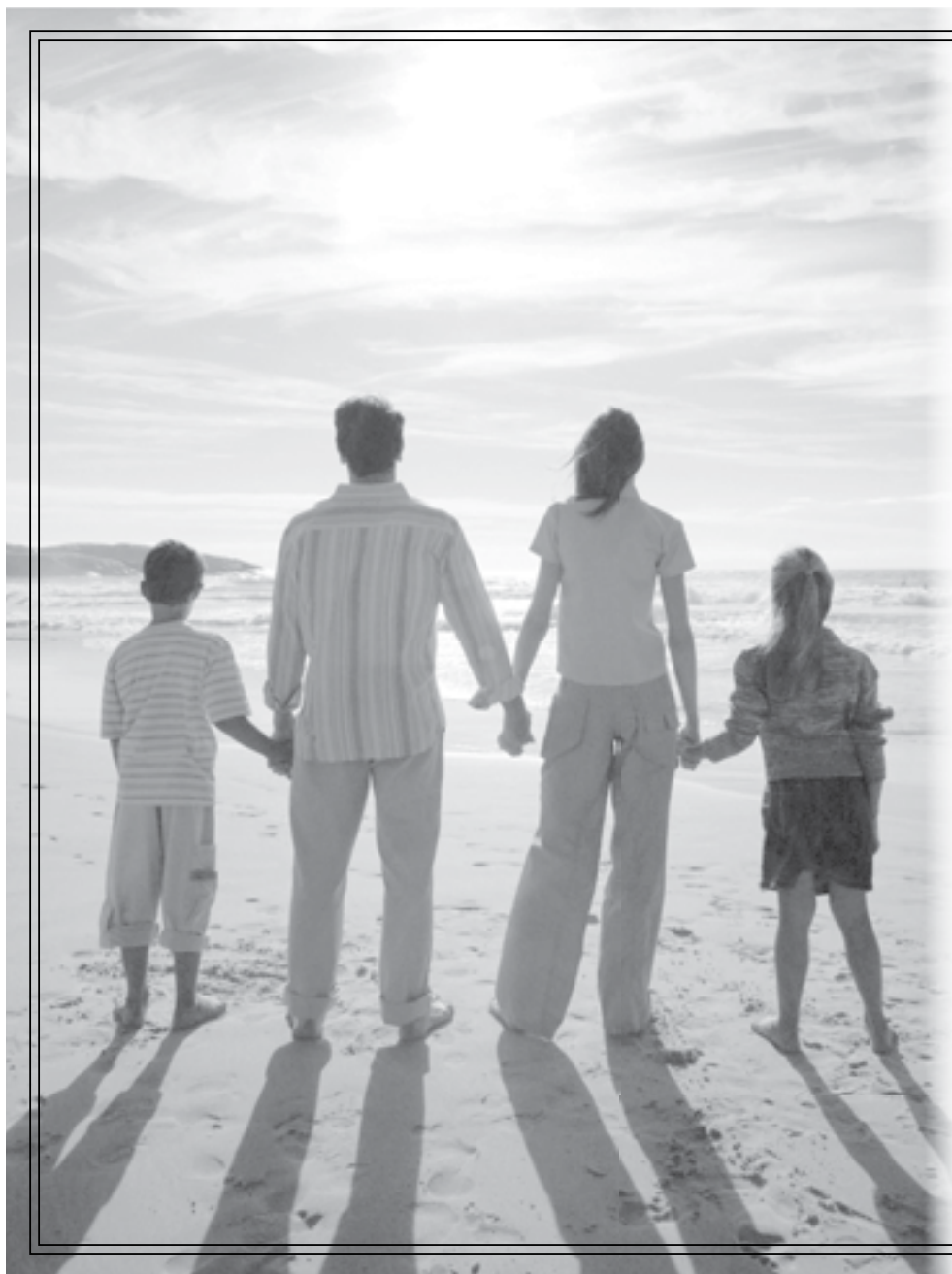
destroyed by her own spleen, resulting in constant anemia and jaundice.

She was sent home to Mexico, but not released. Dismayed to think her mission was over, she underwent surgery to remove her spleen and was able to return to Mesa to finish her service after recovery. Thanks to the Church, she was healthier than she'd ever been after a surgery for which her family could not have paid otherwise.

While that would be blessing enough for a lifetime, she married Brother Perry, who had also served in the Mesa Mission, and began welcoming children into the world.

Spherocytosis is hereditary, and though the Perry's older children were only carriers, this newest baby had the

Continued on pg. 4



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Backstage Miracles Continued from pg. 9

disease just like his mother.

"He had to have blood transfusions once a month until he was five," she explains, "until he could have my surgery."

During this terrible wait, the Perry family attended the Easter Pageant. It was during the portrayal of Christ's healing miracles that Sister Perry had a powerful experience.

"It was like someone whispered, very clearly, in my ear, 'Your son will be alright,'" she remembers.

When her son was old enough and prepared for the surgery, he underwent an operation to remove his spleen. He'd never been energetic before, but after the surgery his recovery was quick.

"After a week, I had to learn how to be a mother to a bouncy ball!" Sister

Perry says. Her son had come through the surgery better even than the doctors hoped.

President Wappett, in his counsel to Sister Perry when she left to receive medical care, told her to study Christ's Atonement in her life.

She didn't know it at the time, but after the diagnosis it became clear her family had suffered terrible losses from the disease. Her father lost three siblings in their

early years to the genetic illness, and one of her own brothers passed in his youth as well.

"If my family hadn't joined the Church," Sister Perry says, "I would never have had treatment. The Lord knows our pain and our sickness, not just our sin. He can take it from us, because of the Atonement."

Sister Perry performed in the Easter Pageant this year with her now healthy

**"It was like
someone whispered
very clearly, in my
ear, 'Your son will
be alright'"**



Photo courtesy of Brenda Perry

The Perry family's youngest child recovered completely from a rare blood disorder and was able to perform in this year's Easter Pageant.

son, taking the opportunity to give back the support she received through its

message in her son's early fight for his life.

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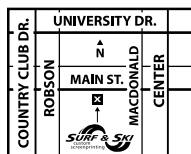
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**FHE
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FAMILY HOME EVENING IS FOR EVERYONE!

By Ann Barnes
The Beehive

“Family Home Evenings are for everyone, whether it be in a two-parent home, a single-parent home, or in a single-member family,” said Elder L. Tom Perry in the May 1994 *Ensign*. Though they may not currently be in traditional family situations, this prophetic direction still includes empty nesters, newlyweds, and single adults.

The number of parents entering the empty nest chapter in their lives as the last child leaves home is on the rise in the Church, leaving parents unsure about continuing to hold Family Home Evening.

A growing number of wards across the country are forming FHE groups where empty nesters, regardless of marital status, meet regularly once

or twice a month and have a potluck dinner, a lesson or message, enjoy entertainment, share stories, play games, or go on outings such as attending the Easter Pageant or the Christmas lights together. These groups provide socializing and an opportunity to bridge the gap of loneliness sometimes felt especially by adults who live alone.

Along that line, young single adult members away from home often meet in their local ward or stake in Home Evening groups. The purpose of these meetings and the empty nester meetings is the same as that of a regular family-based Home Evening, but rather than meeting with family members, the groups are composed of other young single adults. These groups are more common in, but not limited to, areas with large college-age membership.

Newlyweds also have the opportunity to establish the pattern of holding regular Family Home Evening lessons that will be firmly in place before they start their families. FHE can also provide some quality time together before children arrive and attention gets focused elsewhere.

On the other hand, single parents' lives are hectic as the demands of taking care of a family are placed on one set of shoulders. Family Home Evening is the one time of the week in which parent and children both can set aside the cares of the world and have quality time together they may not otherwise get to have.

Building a strong relationship with the Savior, growing spiritually and strengthening family ties are all important parts of FHE. Family Home

Evening provides these opportunities regardless of circumstance. Having an activity as part of FHE also serves an important purpose. During this more casual and relaxed time, families and groups large or small may engage with each other by playing games, working in the garden, doing a service project or going on an outing.

It may be tempting to bypass Family Home Evening in the absence of a traditional family, but the counsel still applies. Sometimes it is difficult to think of something new or different to do. Help is available at LDS.org in the *Family Home Evening Resource Book*. The resource book includes Family Home Evening lessons, ideas, and pre-planned, easily adaptable activities.

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By
Merry Gordon
The Beehive

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Rollero Family Skating Center's hard wood maple floor has been the place—for over three decades now!—to get in some eight-wheeled fun. The Phoenix-based family-friendly rink makes it possible for families on a budget to enjoy a night on the town. On Monday and Wednesday nights, \$3 will get you 3 hours of skating and a small soda.

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See www.rollero.com for details.

#3

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Encanto Park, named by Forbes as one of the Top 12 Best City Parks in the country, has its own amusement park, Enchanted Island! With over a dozen rides and attractions—including trains, a splash zone, coin-op rides, parachute towers and a carousel—you'll be sure to find something that suits everyone. Especially popular are the pedal boats and canoes, which start at \$10 for 30 minutes. Admission to the park is free, but rides range from pocket change to a few tickets.

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pedal boats & canoes extra

#2

Don't pass on culture

Nearly all county libraries offer Act One Culture Passes which enable card holders to receive complimentary admission for two to a variety of the Valley's top cultural destinations and events. Museums like the Halle Heart Children's Museum, Pueblo Grande and the Challenger Space Center all offer free admission under this program. Also included are occasional concerts, like the Phoenix Chamber Music Society and shows by Ballet Arizona.

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You remember the commercials...now roll up your sleeves, break out the recycling bins, and get ready to promote sustainability in your neighborhood. Keep Arizona Beautiful (kazb.org) and Keep Phoenix Beautiful (kpbvolunteers.org) are always on the lookout for people willing to assist in community clean-up and improvement. You can also request trash bags for projects big and small. The best part about saving the earth? It won't cost you a dime.

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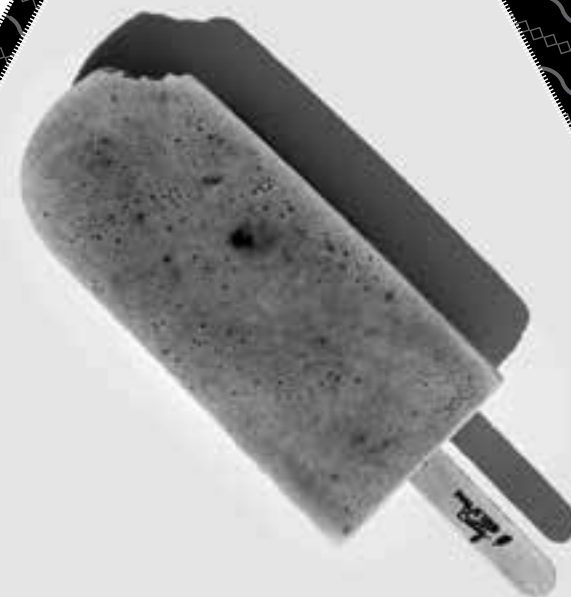


Photo courtesy of Visitor7/Wikimedia Commons

Encanto Park, designated one of Phoenix's Points of Pride, is the site of the family amusement park Enchanted Island.

Paletas Betty's most popular flavor, fresa con crema, or strawberries and cream, will help you keep cool this summer.

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From PRIMARY Presidency TO NINJA Warrior

LDS Athlete Puts SPIRITUALITY FIRST

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

It may seem like an oxymoron—a counselor in a Mesa Primary presidency competing as a member of Team Ninja Warrior.

For Beth Higginbotham Crosby, it's a perfect fit.

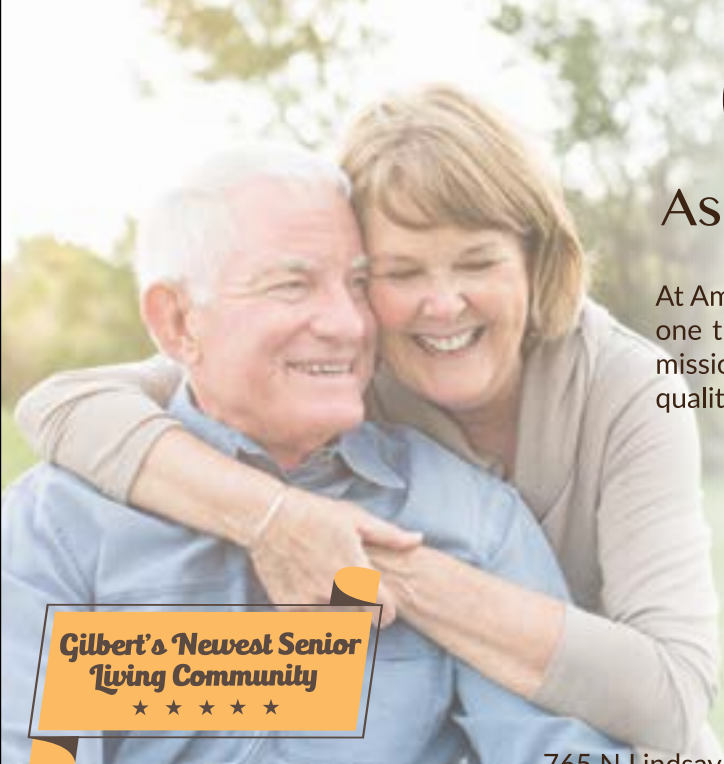
An Arizona State University graduate married since October to Camron Crosby, Beth is a member of the Park Center Ward, Mesa North Stake.

She and her twin, Suzy, were raised in Mesa.



Photo by Beth Crosby

Mesa Latter-day Saint Beth Higginbotham Crosby, who competed on American Ninja Warrior in 2013 and, last year, was chosen for Team Ninja Warrior, hopes to be selected for the show again this year.



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"I grew up as an athlete," Beth says. "I started gymnastics when I was three and did a variety of sports all my life."

Except for the year she took off with a back injury in the 8th grade, Beth competed over the years in everything from track to diving, from triathlons to snowboarding. She was a pre-elite gymnast and a competitive power-lifter.

In addition, Beth has coached countless others, helping them get in shape and improve their athleticism, whether for recreation or competition.

"I have taught swim lessons for six or eight months out of the year since I was 14," she says. "I have taught gymnastics—tumbling and cheer—for the past 13 years."

Once really shy, Beth says, "Coaching has helped me grow and be more outgoing and able to engage in conversations."

She has taught at different gyms and through the city of Mesa, but now offers primarily in-home classes. She also provides myopractic therapy in clients' homes, coaches at Danceworks by Dannis and works with individuals with special needs.

"It's almost like I have eight part-time jobs," Beth says. She has considered cutting back or focusing on one thing, but says, "I love doing everything I do."

On that long list of "loves" is also coaching and competing in Parkour, an obstacle-course type activity typically performed in parks and other urban areas.

Beth enjoys using her gymnastic and athletic ability to perform for the Circus School of AZ and Vertical Fix, as well.

"I'd rather perform any day than compete," she says, "but competing




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 AAA Top Shop Award Winner

Continued on pg. 15

challenges me to be better overall. In circus performances, I've had to tell them I won't wear certain costumes because they aren't modest, so that limits me, but modesty is more important than a job or performance."

Beth's involvement with the Ninja Warrior series has provided similar opportunities for her to be an example.

"Out of the thousands I've met who are involved in the show, only four or so are members of the Church," she says.

Beth was selected in 2013 for Season 5 and 2014 for Season 6 of American Ninja Warrior and has been involved in testing the obstacles and equipment used on the show since 2013. She also competed on

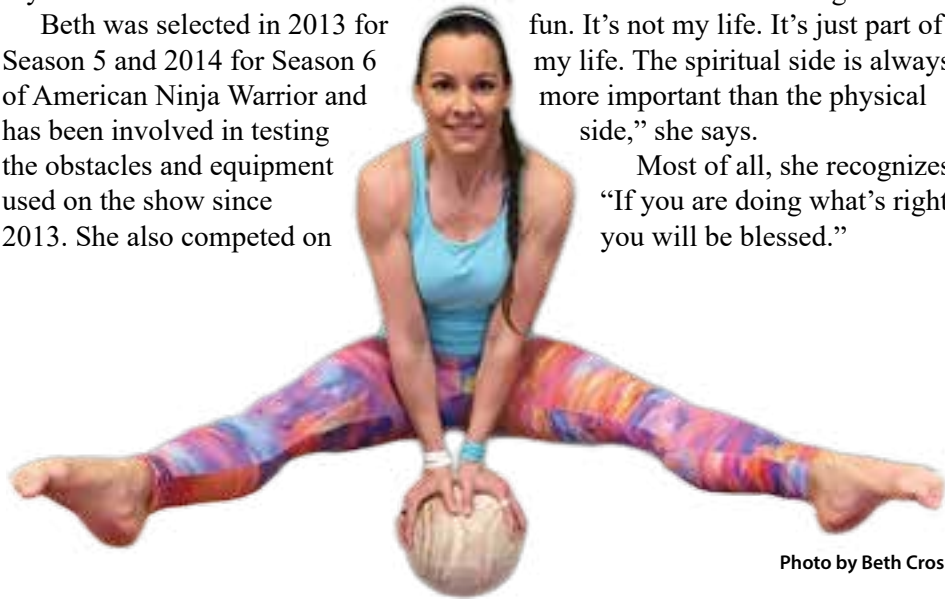


Photo by Beth Crosby

Beth Crosby enjoys using her athletic abilities to compete and coach, but says, as rewarding as that is, her spiritual life comes first.

the first episode of Team Ninja Warrior in October of 2015 and is hoping to be selected again this year.

"I don't compete on Sunday, so that has raised a lot of questions and given me a chance to talk about the Church," she says.

She always takes a Book of Mormon with her when traveling, hoping for an opportunity to give a copy away.

Most of all, Beth says, she tries to maintain perspective.

"I do all the athletic things I do for fun. It's not my life. It's just part of my life. The spiritual side is always more important than the physical side," she says.

Most of all, she recognizes, "If you are doing what's right, you will be blessed."

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New LDS Chapter

of the ASU Alumni Association & Scholarship for Incoming LDS Students

By Robin Finlinson
The Beehive

Arizona State University now has an official LDS chapter of its Alumni Association, called Sun Devil Saints. It's a wonderful vehicle for professional networking and making friends. Chapter members will soon be interfaith bridge builders as they serve the community alongside various groups.

The organization was started by ASU alumnus of 2009 Thomas Grier of Hermosa Vista Stake's Menlo Park Ward, and alumnus of '07 Chad Heywood of Gilbert Stapley Stake's Neely Ward.

The duo are 50/50 business partners with the firm Criterion Public Affairs. Thomas is also an attorney in Mesa.

Though busy young professionals and fathers (Chad with five children and Thomas with three), they hope to see more fellow Sun Devils enjoy success and personal fulfillment. They care deeply about their alma mater.

Thomas jokes, "Real Mormons are Devils." He even proposed to his wife on "A" Mountain, where a 60-foot tall letter "A" proudly announces the university's location.

Chad and Thomas are also ambassadors for an exciting opportunity that awaits new students. The ASU Pioneer Heritage Scholarship has been created to assist LDS freshmen and students transferring from community college.

The scholarship began in 2015 and



Photo by Robin Finlinson

Thomas Grier (l) and Chad Heywood (r), founders of Sun Devil Saints, stand in front of the Fulton Center at Arizona State University.

funded 15 students. The ASU Foundation, a 501(c)(3) that handles alumni affairs and philanthropic donations, was the first to fund it.

"Donors believe in the scholarship, having seen how it's been used," says Chad. Recognizing the board members' commitment to it as well, donors are putting a lot more money toward it. At least one private donor has contributed \$100,000.

"We encourage all LDS students planning to attend ASU to apply," Thomas says.

Besides Thomas and Chad, the scholarship's founding board members include Trey Basha, Derrick Anderson, Roc Arnett and Elder Todd Hansen. Mesa's 2013 Woman of the Year Beth

Coons has since joined.

Elder Neil L. Andersen recently met with the scholarship board. "He reiterated that church members shouldn't feel they have to attend a church-sponsored school," Chad says.

When Deseret News identified six heroes in 2014, ASU's president, Dr. Michael Crow, was among them—a hero of education.

"He is always telling the church that he values the LDS students," says Thomas. Dr. Crow shows that by allocating money and physical space for these students.

An additional perk is that every scholarship will be held for a mission.

Continued on pg. 23

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Apostolic Challenge

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

STRENGTHENED AT ROOTSTECH CONFERENCE

Two years ago at RootsTech, the world's largest family history and technology conference, Elder Neil L. Andersen challenged the youth: "Prepare as many names for the temple as baptisms you perform in the temple." Last year the phrase, "and help someone else to do the same," was added to the challenge.

At the conference this year, which is typically held each February in Salt Lake City, Elder Dale G. Renlund, along with his wife Ruth, and daughter Ashley, opened the Saturday *Family Discovery Day* session. They began by sharing a story about his Finnish roots, specifically speaking of his grandmother on his father's side. Lena Sofia joined the church along with her husband, who passed away a few years later.

Elder Renlund said, "In a blazing affirmation of her faith in the sealing authority, in 1938 [she] submitted the family records for her deceased children who were over eight years of age when they died. That way,

their temple work could be performed, although she herself would not get to the temple during her lifetime."

He testified of the power that comes when we combine family history and temple ordinances.

Ashley quoted President Russell M. Nelson: "While temple and family history work has the power to bless those beyond the veil, it has an equal power to bless the living. It has a refining influence on those who are engaged in it. They are literally helping to exalt their families."

The Renlund family discussed the temple challenge given by Elder Anderson. Then Elder Renlund strengthened the challenge and issued it to everyone: "Prepare as many names for the temple as ordinances you perform in the temple and teach others to do the same."

"If you do this," he says, "blessings will flow to your family." He made this promise:

"You'll find not only protection from the temptation and ills of this world, but also power to change, power to repent, power to be sanctified, power to learn, power to bind your family together and heal that which needs healing."

He invited all to share their experiences on his Facebook page using #templechallenge as the hashtag.

Elder Renlund closed the session by declaring his witness of Jesus Christ and the restoration of the sealing power to earth.

The Renlunds' presentation as well as other classes and speakers are available from the RootsTech video archives accessible at <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

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PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

Quality of life in the mission field relies heavily on a missionary's social and personal skills. Companionships shoulder the responsibility of meeting their own physical needs in addition to the spiritual needs of those they teach.

Young missionaries frequently report to training centers having never lived away from home, without experience in the self-reliance necessary to coordinate the needs of life. Keeping this in mind, mission preparation should incorporate experiences that foster skills for independence, self-sufficiency, and social awareness.

Home mission preparation commonly includes learning to address immediate physical needs. Elder Weber of Utah makes this specific suggestion regarding nutrition: "Learn and practice simple, healthy recipes you actually like."

Once a call is received, missionaries can anticipate what ingredients will be locally available, making this advice a bit easier to follow. Basic cooking skills, however, can be applied anywhere. Missionaries should prepare by practicing with a variety of vegetables, meat, starch, and spice so that wherever they serve, they will be equipped to feed themselves a bal-

Mission papers sent off? Great! Now what? There are plenty of things you can do to prepare spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially while waiting for that all-important call packet. Check in with us for tips, tricks, and useful resources for preparing missionaries and their families.

By Allison Beckett
The Beehive

Stand Up and Reach Out: Foundation Skills for Missionary Independence

anced diet.

Cleanliness is also expected in missionary service.

"My mother," says Elder Cazier of Wyoming, "made sure I was doing my own laundry at 16. She had me learn it myself rather than teaching me how."

Clothing care, at least so far as cleaning, is only the start. Missionaries are responsible for their own living space, and some missions require periodic inspections of apartments and vehicles. For this, their health, and

for an increased measure of the spirit in their study and practice, preparation should include practice cleaning clothes, dishes, kitchens, bathrooms, and a consistent standard of tidiness and organization.

Less commonly mentioned, but most important in application, are social skills. A large percentage of missionaries struggle to initiate gospel conversations with strangers, which sometimes results in feelings of anxiety, high stress, and poor performance

in the early months. While this is a challenge experienced differently by each individual, the transition can be aided with early practice.

"Go through the checkout lines at the grocery store," says Elder Kitchen of Utah. "Start up a conversation with your neighbors, and with your server at restaurants and other places. Your social skills should be equal to your gospel knowledge."

Elder Loyola of Micronesia had the added challenge of learning English, and his struggle talking with everyone is common to most missionaries learning a language.

"Talk with everyone," he says. "The more you talk with everyone, about them and about their belief, you will get confidence. Now I really love talking with everyone."

Conversations about gospel topics can be rare outside of church. Preparing missionaries should welcome any opportunity to practice bringing up belief in normal conversation.

Living independently, especially on a mission, is important, but the purpose of a mission is to connect with, teach, and serve the people who live there too. Missionaries who prepare for both aspects of a mission will have an advantage in the field.



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Families Can Be Together Forever Video Highlights Adoption Process

By Allison Beckert
The Beehive

A wonderful video has just been released for the benefit of growing families considering adoption. Garth Smith, a talented musician and two-time adoptive parent, in association with LDS Southern California videographer Chad Peters, pairs visuals with an original arrangement of the beloved hymn “Families Can Be Together Forever.” This video was released through LDS Living and is available to view on Brother Smith’s website,



Photo courtesy of Garth Smith

The musical arrangement from the video can be found on Brother Smith’s album *How Beautiful Thy Temples: Sacred Hymns Volume II*.

YouTube channel, and through LDS Living’s website.

Brother Smith began work on this project out of his own experience with parenthood and the adoption process. When he was a student at BYU, working through college with his wife, he had a powerful prompting that it was time to begin their family. He saw a child in a car driving out of the gas station where he worked and a strong feeling came over him.

“As a returned missionary, I understood what the Spirit felt like, and this was the Spirit telling me there was a child who was waiting to come into our family,” he says.

The road to that child, however, was not an easy one. For the next seven years, he and his wife experienced a succession of heartbreaking losses through miscarriages and serious medical problems. They finally contacted LDS Social Services.

“After submitting the paperwork,” he remembers, “we waited six months before being called to meet with an agent.” In a recurrence of his experience at the gas station from years ago, he knew before they went inside the agency that

they were going to be told not only that there was a baby available, but that this baby was the one for them.

“I knew then and I know now that the Lord was mindful of us throughout the adoption process,” says Brother Smith.

Elder Neil L Anderson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles addressed the beauty and importance of families, irrespective of shape and method of construction, in his April conference talk “Whoso Receiveth Them, Receiveth Me.”

While Elder Anderson specifically addressed the precious nature of children and the complex family structures in the world today, the powerful message joins well with the spirit of the “Families Can Be Together Forever” video.

However families come together, shift, change, and develop, children are precious to the Lord and need lasting love and support.

“My desire,” Brother Smith says, “is that the message of this video will give hope to parents who are considering adoption. Also, I want to send a message to adoptive children that they



Photo courtesy of Gemmell Photography

Brother Smith draws on his experience as an adoptive parent in his new video, “Families Can Be Together Forever.”

are loved.”

Brother Garth Smith has recorded his powerful hymn arrangements in two albums of music, *Sacred Hymns* and *How Beautiful Thy Temples, Sacred Hymns, Vol. II*. These are available in most LDS bookstores. He also shares the power of his music through performing for firesides, EFY groups, single adult conferences, stake firesides, missionary conferences, and even the Washington D.C. Temple Visitors’ Center. His work can be found on his website, YouTube channel, and Facebook page.

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CAMPING EDITION

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

With camping season right around the corner, many families are on the hunt for low-cost, fun ways to serve meals around a campfire. These easy recipes are surefire hits—simple enough that children can be involved in all aspects of preparation and cooking, and hearty enough to fill hungry bellies after a day of trailblazing in the great outdoors.

Snacks & Sides:

Hot Water Campfire Cornbread

- 1 cup cornmeal
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon white sugar
- Oil or bacon grease
- 1 tablespoon Crisco shortening
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup boiling water
- Paper towels

Optional: minced onions, honey or syrup to taste

In a large bowl, mix the dry ingredients first: the cornmeal, the salt and the sugar. Add boiling water and Crisco and stir until the shortening melts. Pour oil or bacon grease carefully into your skillet, just about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch to cover the bottom, and heat to roughly 375 degrees. Next, use a tablespoon to measure out and form the cornmeal mixture into flattened balls. Fry each cornmeal ball about 5 minutes (turn once) until golden brown. Drain on paper towels and serve immediately with honey or syrup. If you would rather snack on a more savory cornbread, add a tablespoon of finely minced onions to the mix—and omit the honey or syrup. Serves 6-10, depending on the size of your cornbread.



Photo by Charles Mayes | Creative Commons

Simple ingredients and easy prep make hot water cornbread a winner for cooking off the grid.



Photo by Mirdsson2 | Creative Commons

Easy recipes are go-to choices for camping with kids, who love to be involved in all aspects of meal preparation.

Main Course:

Easy Foil Packet Dinner

- 1 pound cubed boneless, skinless chicken
- 2 onions, diced
- 1 can of diced mushrooms
- 1 bell pepper, seeded and cut into thin strips
- 4 cloves of garlic, diced
- 4 small potatoes, cubed
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil
- Juice from 1 lemon
- Salt, pepper and spices to taste

Combine all ingredients except for the olive oil and lemon juice into a large, re-sealable plastic bag; then, pour in lemon juice and olive oil and mix well. Evenly divide the mixture among 4 large sheets of aluminum foil. Top each mixture on foil with another sheet of foil, and then wrap both edges tightly to create a packet. If you are not using heavy-duty foil, you will want to double-wrap packets. Cook in the coals of your campfire until chicken is done, or about 40 minutes. Salt, pepper and spice to taste. You can easily add other veggies to the packets for more variety, and hamburger meat is a good chicken substitution. Serves 4.

Dessert:

Tin Can Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

- Clean empty tuna cans, 1 per person
- Prepared yellow cake mix*
- Brown sugar
- Canned pineapple rings
- Maraschino cherries
- Cooking spray
- Aluminum foil
- Toothpicks
- Hot coals

**it's best to prepare the cake mix in advance and keep it in a clean milk jug on ice for convenience.*

First, spray the tuna cans with cooking spray and sprinkle the bottom of each can with a thin layer of brown sugar. Place a pineapple ring on top of the brown sugar and a single maraschino cherry in the center of each pineapple ring. Fill each tuna can half full with the prepared cake mix. Cover the cans with aluminum foil and place carefully upon the hot coals (not flames) of your campfire. Cooking time will vary, but cakes are done when a toothpick inserted in the center of the cake emerges clean.



Recipe and photo by Simple As Pi

Cleaned-out tuna cans make for perfect single-serving pineapple upside-down cake treats.

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9 YEAR OLD aspires to be on Master Chef JUNIOR

By Ann Barnes
The Beehive

Nine-year-old Nora Evans is a baker. Her specialty? French macarons (correct spelling). These tiny, delicate, sandwich-like cookies shouldn't be confused with other macaroon cookies. Both confections originate in the word *ammaccare*, an Italian word meaning "to crush"—but they are very different desserts. French macarons are about the size of an Oreo cookie and are sandwiched together with jam, ganache, or a creamy filling.

"Nora started helping in the kitchen when she was about four years old," says her mother, Kirstynn Evans. When Nora was six, she saw TV's *Cupcake Wars* and began making cupcakes. Her congregation, Goodyear Stake's Dreaming Summit Ward, held their own version of a cupcake war soon after.

She liked making cupcakes but was open to a new challenge when on a trip to California, her mother saw and purchased some French macarons and took them home.

Though French macarons are a specialty and can be quite expensive and difficult to make, that didn't stop

the young baker. Some specific tools were needed as were some uncommon ingredients not usually found in the pantry, like almond flour. But with delectable filling flavors including chocolate, lemon, butter crème and lemon curd, the tricky treats are worth the extra effort.

"The hardest thing I had to learn was whipping them correctly," says Nora, "because they have to be whipped exactly thirty times by hand so they come off the spoon right. Whipping them with a mixer ruins them."

Measurements must be precise for the lightweight cookies to turn out properly. It took the mother-daughter team about a year and a half to perfect their recipe.

Nora's summer plans include holding a Macaron Monday. "I'll bake the macarons on Sunday night and fill them Monday morning in time to have them ready for my preorders," Nora says. She sells by the dozen.

She often bakes them to give as gifts rather than buying or making a present. While she enjoys giving them



Photo by Kirstynn Evans

Nora Evans carefully whips her macaron batter thirty times by hand before pouring it onto a specialized baking sheet.

as gifts, she also has a following of repeat customers who buy from her.

Her cookies often match the seasons or a special event. She recently made green macarons with a butter crème filling for the cast and crew of *The Wizard of Oz*, a local ballet in which she performed.

While Nora does do some traditional cooking, including her favorite chili and baked potato fries, she still prefers baking. She wants to become a contestant on Fox's *Master Chef, Jr.* with Gordon Ramsey and is working toward that. Her biggest fans are her brothers, Smith and Miles, her father Joel, and her mother.

LDS ASU Alumni Chapter
Continued from pg. 16

Within 24 hours of the church lowering the mission age, Dr. Crow had the scholarship policy changed to reflect that.

Furthering its relationship with the Church community, ASU spent a significant amount of money to hold the first LDS Family Education Night on January 26th. Approximately 3,000 high school juniors and seniors (plus their parents) attended the enormous event, at which good friends Dr. Crow and Elder Andersen sat on a discussion panel together.

"The Institute's footprint in the middle of the campus shows ASU's and Dr. Crow's commitment to allowing people to openly practice their faith on campus," says Chad. The Institute at the university's Polytechnic site in Mesa is another example.

"People hear about the Institute, but that's just the surface," says Thomas.

Come see what else is happening!

Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/SunDevilSaints> to see the February 20th post with photos of Elder Andersen's visit to ASU and read his comments. Also visit <https://alumni.asu.edu/groups/special-interest>.

Pioneer Heritage Scholarship applications for the 2017-2018 school year will be accepted beginning June 1, 2016. Visit <https://scholarships.asu.edu/scholarship/pioneerheritage> for more information.

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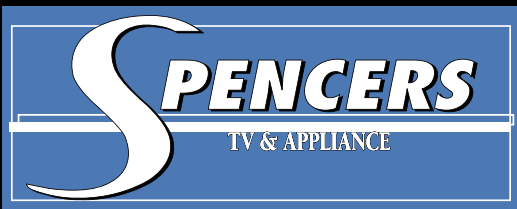
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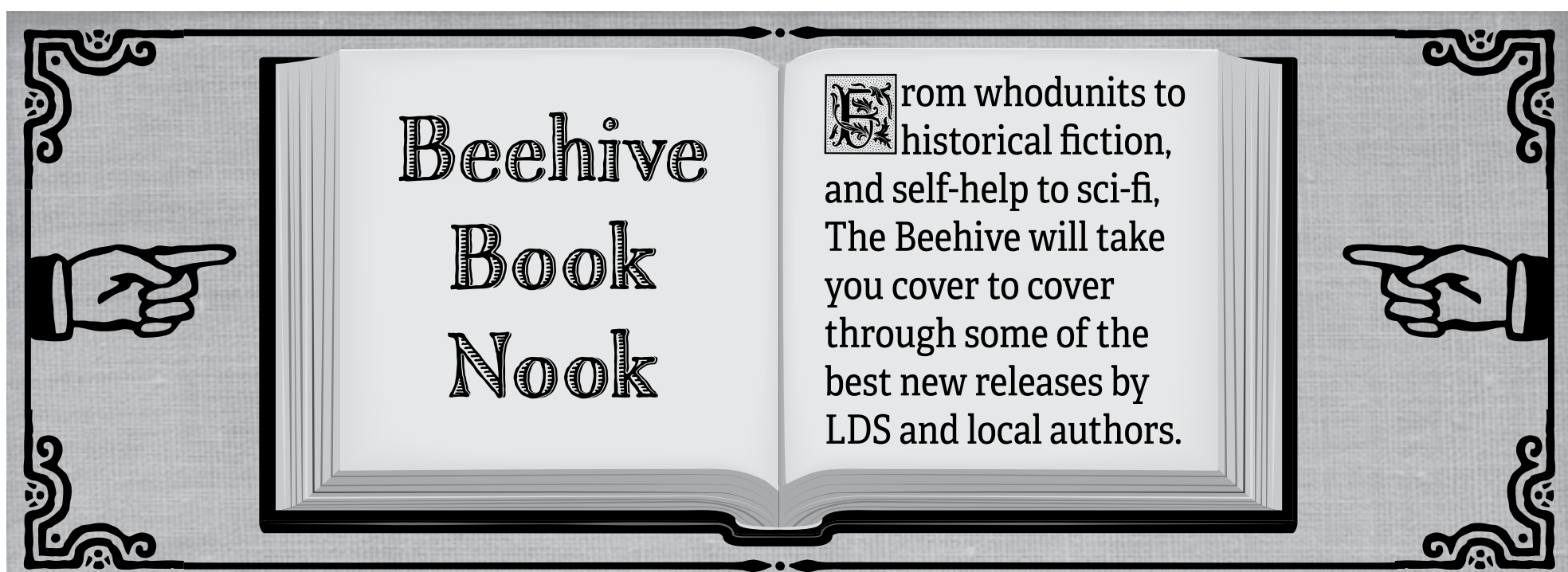
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Regency era writer Donna Hatch, delights readers with her newest book: *The Suspect's Daughter*

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

Best-selling author Donna Hatch has done it again with *The Suspect's Daughter* (Mirror Lake Press, 2015), Book 4 in the Rogue Hearts Series. Known for her ability to transport readers to the Regency era, Hatch brings to life Jocelyn Fairly, who will do anything to help her father and his political aspirations.

A fierce, courageous young lady who betrays notions of typical Regency ladies, Jocelyn has the tender heart of a woman who chooses to put off love... until she meets Grant Amesbury.

The last of the Amesbury brothers to find a wife, this war hero leads a life away from the polite society of his elder brothers, determined to solve the mystery behind who is plotting to kill the prime minister. His only suspect is Jocelyn's father.

In this stand-alone book, Hatch reveals the back story on Grant and the danger that his secrets bring to the Fairley family. It's a historical romance and mystery with complex characters, fantastic romantic tension, an intriguing plot and the future of England at stake.

Photo by Stacy Johnson

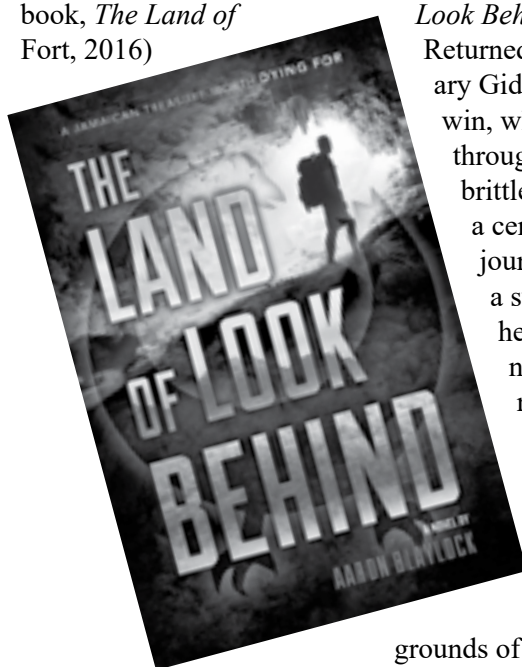
Set just after the era of Jane Austen's masterpieces, *The Suspect's Daughter* pairs polite society with political intrigue.



The Land of Look Behind: Blaylock's Jamaican historical mystery delivers on thrills

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

Old journals, strange drawings, whispers of treasures untold... Arizona native Aaron Blaylock delivers on thrills in his first book, *The Land of*



Look Behind (Cedar Returned missionary Gideon Goodwin, while leafing through the brittle pages of a centuries-old journal, finds a symbol that he recognizes. He returns to a mysterious cave in his old mission stomping

grounds of Jamaica—Cockpit Country, dubbed “The Land of Look Behind” for the Spanish horsemen who rode two to a mount through the dangerous region, once the haunt of runaway slaves. Here Gideon—with the help of old friends and Jarvis's diary—will confront sinister forces in pursuit of a great treasure and a secret that spans 300 years.

Blaylock himself served in the Jamaica Kingston Mission, “where he learned to speak patois and fell in love with a country and a people,” as he puts it. His story is rich with the history and culture of the region and saturated with a keen sense of adventure.

Adrienne Quintana's thriller *Eruption* is a must-read sci-fi adventure

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

Action and suspense come together beautifully in Adrienne Quintana's breakthrough novel *Eruption* (Sweetwater Books, 2015). Jace Vega's dream job begins on the heels of her mother's death. A fresh start in Minnesota is just what she needs as she learns to deal with her grief.

Only a month into her move, she gets a message from her future self that causes her to question the truth about herself and her life. After reuniting with an old friend from elementary school, the chase begins to figure out what it all means.

Eruption has all the elements of a good read: great pacing, suspense and just enough romantic tension to keep readers guessing. Quintana has the ability to create dialogue that is smooth, natural and very real. The characters have just enough dimension to keep the reader wondering who is genuinely helping Jace—and who isn't.

Quintana offers a take on time travel that is unpredictable and fascinating, definitely a unique twist. Each page provides a piece of the puzzle that will all come together to create an unexpected ending.

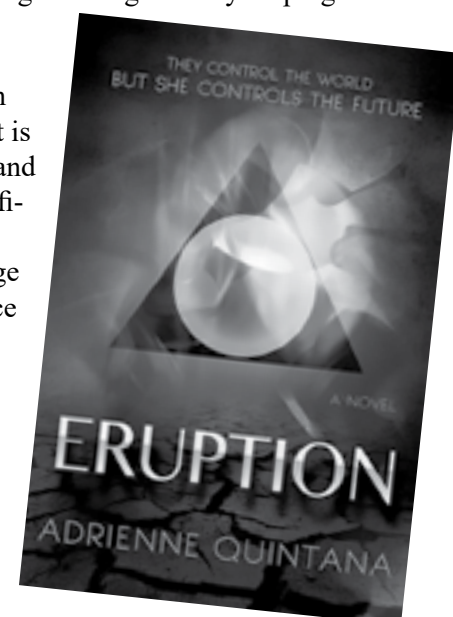


Photo by Adrienne Quintana

Eruption is only the first novel in Adrienne Quintana's new series. *Reclamation*, her follow-up, is due to debut in September of 2016.

LDS Artist OVERCOMES AUTISM with Art

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

Once upon a time, Alex Smith didn't speak. Not in spontaneous language, anyway. Diagnosed with autism at the age of three, Alex communicated mostly through quotes from her favor-



Photo by Duke Photography

Alex Smith, artist and member of the autistic community, finds her inspiration in literature and legend.

ite Disney films.

It wasn't until she picked up a pencil and sketch pad that the now 21-year-old artist truly found her voice—and her calling—in art. After early intervention therapies, her language skills developed while her artistic skills took off. With an artist mother and musician father, she grew up in an environment that nurtured those creative gifts and helped her bloom from a doodler into an up-and-comer, frequently one of the youngest artists at the juried shows and galleries where she now exhibits.

But accepting congratulations for the success she's found on her non-traditional path seems "weird," Alex admits. "It's just who I am and what I do," she says.

The 2013 Millennium High School graduate has jumped right into a career as a mixed-media artist, working primarily in acrylic on canvas/colored pencil and ink on wood. Her popular Illuminations series involves intricately

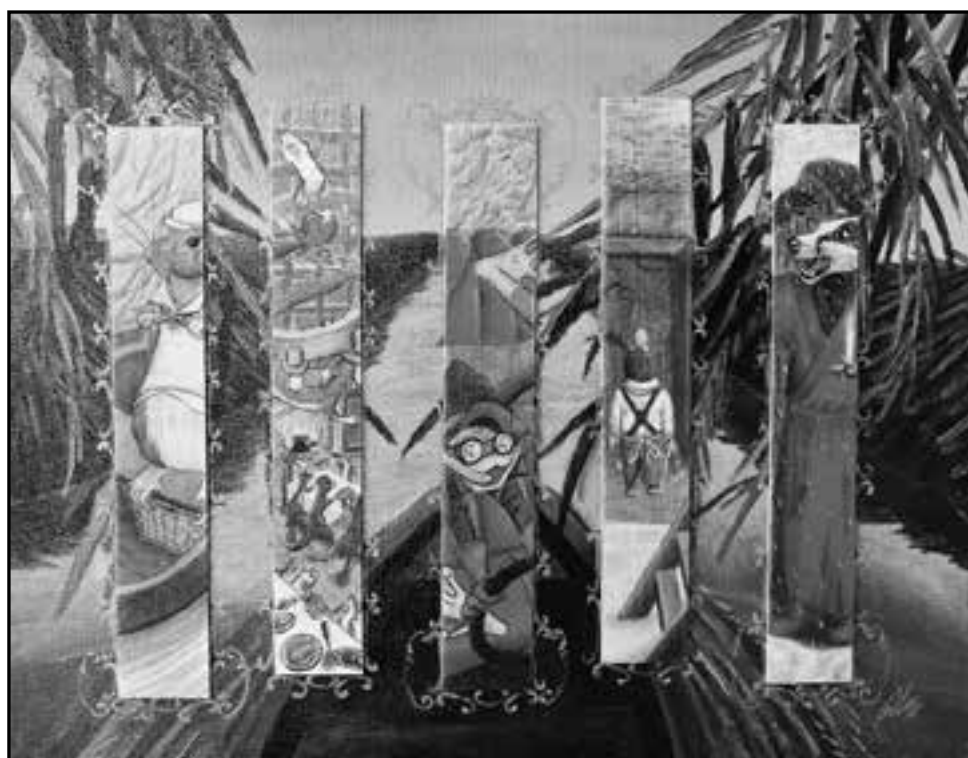


Photo by Stacy Smith

A piece from Alex Smith's Illumination series, a mixed media fantasia that encourages viewers to revisit familiar children's stories like *The Wind in the Willows*.

detailed wooden panels over painted backdrops that mesmerize the viewer.

Alex, who has shown and sold her work at Scottsdale's El Pedregal and Avondale's Catitude Gallery and Studio among other locations, still draws her inspiration from the fairytale themes that permeate her much-loved Disney favorites. These simple moral tales and a love of all things fantastic inform her work and create a dichotomy that speaks to her fans. Her art combines an adult's understanding with a child's perspective.

"It's a lot like we see things when we are children," Alex says. "We are amazed by so many things. I want people to feel that way again."

Distinctively, Alex's art is a celebration of the arts in a much broader context: "My pieces also celebrate the talents that Heavenly Father has given others: authors and story tellers," she explains.

On her canvases, old, well-loved

Continued on pg. 27

Service Opportunities IN THE Pathway Program

By Diane Gordon
The Beehive

Over 1700 dedicated volunteers worldwide have fostered the phenomenal growth of the BYU Idaho Pathway Program from just 50 students in 2009 to over 14,000 students this year. Pathway is designed to help adults of all ages and circumstances achieve a college education. As the demand for the program grows, so does the need for leaders and facilitators. For members passionate about helping others achieve their educational dreams, Pathway offers several options for service.

SPEAKING PARTNERS/MENTORS

One-half hour per week and a computer with Skype capabilities are the basic requirements to serve in this capacity. Many Pathway students have limited English abilities and as part of their coursework need the opportunity for authentic language experiences with other English speakers. A friendly, guided conversation once each week

provides practice and confidence for the student and the opportunity for new friendships around the world or in the local community. Guidelines, videos and details about registering as a Speaking Partner/Mentor are available on the Pathway Website at <https://pathway.lds.org>.

SERVICE MISSIONARIES

Church Service Missionaries, the backbone of the Pathway program, average 5 to 20 hours per week as they assist with a variety of on-site needs in the program.

Generally, one couple is called to serve as site leaders, such as Elder Edward and Sister Trish Eaton of the Arizona Glendale Pathway site. They work hard to build ties with local Priesthood, Relief Society and Institute leaders.

"Pathway has proven to be a very effective tool in re-activation, new member development, and improving members' ability to provide tempo-

rally for their families," says Elder Eaton. Site leaders also coordinate classroom space, organize cohort groups, and facilitate training provided by BYU.

Other missionary couples may be assigned as facilitators who oversee and mentor weekly gatherings.

"Our biggest challenge is developing a close relationship with the students," says Sister Cookie Overson of the Arizona Show Low Pathway site. "We want very much to be there for them and to get to know them.... We conduct meetings, work with the lead students and try to visit with them each week a little before and after the meetings." To bond with the students, facilitators remain with their group throughout the year and continue to

provide support as needed.

Rural areas like the reservations require a special kind of support for issues such as poverty, frequent power outages and slow Internet. Elder Louis Van Orden and his wife Claudia oversee the Arizona Chinle Pathway program.

"All learning benefits mankind," she explains. "These students are required

Continued on pg. 27



Photo by Diane Gordon

Glendale Pathway Lead Service Missionary couple, Elder Edward Eaton and Sister Trish Eaton, assist on site.

stories emerge in a riot of colors. A princess sleeps amidst a tangle of briars. Wicked stepsisters preen; fairies flutter. From favorite works of literature, Oz glistens green in the foreground and Mr. Toad grips the wheel of his motor car.

"I feel like I'm part of it. I could walk right into the setting and become one of the characters in her story," says Ann Ashton, who has bought a few of Alex's pieces. "Each painting is detailed, unique, beautiful, and unmistakably Alex Smith!"

It's a beauty born out of struggle. Alex experienced academic and social difficulties due to her autism and has had to work very hard to operate on a day-to-day basis in the world. When words prove difficult, she turns to her canvas.

"Where most people think in words," she says, "I think in pictures. Art is how I can share my thoughts with other people."

Alex looks forward to a happily-ever-after that hopefully includes bigger gallery representation and an increased collector following. Ultimately, her goal is to be able to support herself through her art.

"I feel like I can look forward to a future where I can have satisfaction in my work and make others happy. I'm learning how to improve my art all the time, and also learning how to talk to other people about what I do."

Check Alex Smith out on Facebook at Illuminations: Alex Smith.

Mesa Attorney Works with Church Welfare Services to Aid Ecuadorians After EARTHQUAKE

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

On April 16, hearing that a 7.8-magnitude earthquake had hit near Quito, Ecuador, brought back vivid memories for Ken Patricio Smith—and spurred him to action.

Having served an LDS mission in Chile nearly 40 years ago, Brother Smith says, "I personally witnessed the devastation caused by earthquakes in Chile and El Salvador. Imagine losing loved ones or everything you own in a matter of seconds."

A Mesa attorney and former Spanish branch president, Brother Smith is a member of the Citrus Heights Stake and attends both the Hermosa Groves and Valencia (Spanish) wards.

He has served as the Honorary Consul of Chile since 2012. As such, he provides services to more than 2,000 Chileans who live in the Phoenix area, helping them with passports, to register births and deaths and to prepare other legal documents.

His role also has afforded him the opportunity to associate with other



Photo courtesy Ken Patricio Smith

At the Bishops' Storehouse in Mesa, Ken Patricio Smith (l) and Dr. Patricio Herrera-Betancourt, the Consul General of Ecuador, at the Mesa Bishops' Storehouse, watch as supplies from Salt Lake are transferred onto a truck to take them to Los Angeles and from there to be shipped to help earthquake victims in Ecuador.

leaders in the Hispanic community, including Dr. Patricio Herrera Betancourt, the Consul General of Ecuador in Phoenix.

Based on initial reports after the earthquake, Brother Smith knew the

damage was massive.

"The death toll was approaching 600. Thousands of people were injured and in need of medical attention.

Continued on pg. 29

Pathway Program Service Continued from pg. 26

to sacrifice money, personal and family time...some driving 1.5 hours to come after working all day. Yet, it improves their knowledge, their self-esteem and they become committed to helping others succeed."

In spite of these challenges, Sister Van Orden says, "I am always touched to hear the students thank the Lord for their Pathway missionaries...We have our reward in the wonderful friends we find in our students."

INSTITUTE PERSONNEL

Religion courses are made available to Pathway students through CES for transferable credit. These instructors build relationships with the students and service missionaries, provide Internet and facilities support during the weekly gatherings and assist in finding potential students.

ONLINE INSTRUCTORS

Online instructors in math, English, and life skills (general studies) are provided through BYU Idaho. Requirements for qualified adjunct faculty are found at pathway@byui.edu.

Find family fun and more at Jester'Z

By Diane Gordon
The Beehive

Jester'Z Improv Comedy is serious about good, clean fun! And FUN is evident from the colorful, well-lit storefront to the checkerboard lobby and the relaxed atmosphere of the performance area. "Improve the quality of life," says Jester'Z owner/producer Jef Rawls. "That is our motto." This spring marks the 15th anniversary of the family-friendly improv company that Brother Rawls and his wife and co-producer, Shurlin, created with that principle in mind.

The weekend shows are built



Photo courtesy of Leavitt Wells of Leave it to Leavitt Photography

Continued on pg. 29

Mary Upchurch, Ryan Quenneville and Travis Johnson goof around onstage at the family-friendly venue at Jester'Z Improv Comedy.

Songs of the Heart Span the Globe in Virtual Hallelujah Choir

By Emily Jex Boyle
The Beehive

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow described music as the universal language. Recently, singers of varying talent and training had a unique opportunity to combine voices across distance and time. Earlier this year, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir called for online submissions to create a virtual performance of George Frideric Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from the Messiah.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir recognized Eric Whitacre, who initiated a virtual choir trend, as the inspiration for this performance. A virtual choir is a recent Internet phenomenon. Thousands of people record themselves singing a song; those recordings are then uploaded to YouTube and joined together as a choir.

According to its website, the purpose of the LDS Church's 2016 Eas-

ter initiative was to invite Christians around the world to come together in singing praises and proclaiming that Jesus Christ the Messiah lives. Irrespective of culture or creed, people were invited to join in the chorus celebrating the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On March 25, 2016, Good Friday, the finished video was released.

Sister Heather Smart, a Mormon Tabernacle Choir member, describes, "I have had wonderful experiences singing in amazing venues, with wonderful orchestras, and incredible guest artists. This experience was, however, totally unique!"

Sister Smart recalls the early Sunday morning they recorded. Halls typically quiet filled with rows of people young and old. A buzz and excitement filled the air.

"I could only associate [the feel-



Photo by Debra Gehris

Heather Smart (front row in white), member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, sings with fellow members and guest vocalists for the special event.

ing] with the first time I set foot in the Tabernacle to sing," she says. "I always feel like I am singing with angels when I sing this piece, but on that day I stood next to some of them and loved every minute of it."

The choir posted instructional videos to aid participants. Peter and Evynne Hollens, both trained singing professionals, produced practice videos to help submitters. Over 2,500 video submissions arrived from all over the world. Celebrity participants included Donny Osmond, Alex Boye, Madilyn

Paige and Firefly. Ensembles included Vocal Point from Brigham Young University, Noteworthy, and Resonance Vocal Ensemble from San Luis Obispo, California.

Sister Joyce Cox, of the Wagon Wheel Ward in the Pinetop Lakeside Stake, has been fortunate to sing for the past 25 years with the White Mountain Chorale at their annual Messiah concert. Recording her personal submission for the Virtual Chorus was, as she describes, "a whole different ball of wax."

Continued on pg. 29

Local Author Sarah Hinze JOURNEYS TO SPEAK at the United Nations

By Katherine Ogden
The Beehive

In November of 1979, Sarah Hinze was sitting in her stake center, listening to the first LDS Women's Conference, when she heard President Kimball's talk.

"Much of the major growth that is coming to the Church, in the last days, will come because many of the good women of the world, in whom there is often such an inner sense of spirituality, will be drawn to the Church in large numbers," President Kimball stated. "This will happen to the degree that the women of the Church reflect righteousness and articulateness in their lives and to the degree that the women of the Church are seen as distinct and different, in happy ways, from the women of the world."

"I felt the Holy Spirit go through me like fire and it seemed the prophet was speaking to me," says Sister Hinze. "It seemed as though the Spirit was whispering, 'Seek the Lord in all you do, that you may stand and help fulfill the prophet's counsel to women.'"

With a busy household of four young children, Sister Hinze of the Mesa 18th Ward, Mesa East Stake, wasn't sure what she had to offer, but over the next few years she felt encouraged to start writing. Throughout her life she'd loved journal writing, so with these same story-telling principles, she wrote three articles for the Ensign. Never before had she considered writing a book, but it was impressed upon her heart to write about children. As a mother, she was most in tune with spiritual feelings during pregnancy and how she felt connected to her children, even before birth.

Sister Hinze realized she was to be a gatherer of stories that support the dignity of the unborn child. She began collecting stories of 'prebirth experiences,' a term she coined, and wrote her first book, *Life Before Life*.

Sister Hinze's ongoing research of 30 years continues to open doors where she can share her message and be a voice for the unborn. Most recently,



Photo courtesy of Sarah Hinze

Big Ocean Women members (left to right) Debora Fletcher, Sarah Hinze, Ali Lund and Anna Hinze.

Carolina Allen, president and founder of Big Ocean: Women for Faith, Family and Motherhood, an international pro-family group, invited Sister Hinze to join her at the March 2016 annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Sister Hinze spoke, along with other members, as keynote speakers at the event called Meet Women Who Are Changing the World, where they had the opportunity to speak out for family and motherhood.

Sister Hinze's lecture, entitled "The Powerful Bond between Parents and their Children," shared how women have potent intuitive and spiri-

tual capacities, and that the caring and nurturing of children is an inherently divine quality. Sister Hinze concluded her remarks by speaking about forced and sex-selective abortion in some countries. While at the event, Sister Hinze distributed 150 copies of her new book, *The Castaways: New Evidence Supporting the Rights of the Unborn Child*, as gifts to those in attendance.

"This is a time to stand, as never before, for truth," Sister Hinze affirms.

Sister Hinze is currently the co-leader of Big Ocean Women's Pro-Life Team. For more information, visit www.sarahhinze.com or www.big-oceanwomen.org

Virtual Hallelujah Choir
Continued from pg. 28

Sister Cox didn't have the joined voices of her choir mates, and when she played back the recording online she heard only her voice without the music.

She admits, "My voice sounded more feeble than I remembered."

Ultimately, she put the music away and sang from memory as best she could. She learned the power of memorization: "The powerful words of praise of our Father in Heaven and His Son Jesus Christ...they become my words."

She says it was inspiring to watch the technological feat of combining all of the unaccompanied voices with the choir and orchestra in concert. It gave her a taste of what the heavenly choir may be like.

Sister Cox's vulnerability and Sister Smart's sense of synergy are at the heart of Longfellow's description of the universality of music. Certainly, events such as the Virtual Hallelujah Chorus help bring Christians together.

For more information on the Easter Initiative 2016, go to mormon.org/easter or motab.org/messiah for details. #MessiahSing #Hallelujah

Jester's Family Fun
Continued from pg. 27

around "G-rated" comedy improv skits performed by skilled actors and comedians. The current cast of fifteen talented performers includes 12 men and 3 women from a wide range of backgrounds, and occasional special guest performers such as Whippy Cake, Girls With Glasses, cast members from BYUtv's Studio C and most recently, a benefit performance by Hollywood actor Sean Astin.

Improvisation or "improv" is a popular form of theatrical comedy that requires actors to be quick-thinking, articulate and responsive not only to other actors but also to suggestions from the audience. Skits are developed around a framework idea with details such as a character-type, location and props all chosen by the audience. The result is a unique and often hilarious performance "improvised" by the comedy troupe on the spot.

Brother Rawls was drawn to improv comedy about 20 years ago when he attended a performance by a local troupe in Scottsdale. He returned to take classes and workshops and later became a performer

and instructor himself. Rawls met and married Shurlin and eventually left his banking job to pursue the idea of his own comedy club full-time, focusing on clean, clever and family-friendly fun. The result was Jester'Z.

Originally based in Scottsdale, the club recently moved to the Mesa Riverview district near Dobson Road and the 202. The new venue provides easy access, greater visibility, and three times the space of the previous location. With a seating capacity of nearly 275 guests, Jester'Z has become a popular destination for families, birthday parties, dates, bridal parties and out-of-town guests.

In addition to the weekend shows, Jester'Z offers a comprehensive range of classes for adults and youth ages 8-17, corporate training to enhance life skills such as teamwork and effective communication, and exciting new projects like Jester'Z Creative Services, an improv sit-com that features local businesses.

Need to host a unique private event? Large groups such as churches, corporations and community organiza-

tions can enjoy tailor-made private events and even "atmosphere actors" from Jester'Z team. Companies such as Honeywell, Intel, PepsiCo, and Bank of America are among Jester'Z corporate clients.

Like any good jester, Brother Rawls is juggling a lot. He and his wife are the busy parents of 6 children, he currently serves in the Bishopric of the McDowell Ward, Citrus Heights Stake, and also helps direct the Mesa Temple Easter Pageant. For the Rawls, improving the quality of life in Arizona is a lot of work...and a lot of FUN!

Jester'Z Improv Comedy is located at Mesa Riverview shopping center, 1061 N. Dobson Rd. Suite #114 in Mesa. Comedy improv shows are presented weekly on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm. The shows run 90 minutes. General Admission is \$13 (plus tax.) To purchase tickets and/or learn more about classes, special events and training programs, go to www.jester-zimprov.com or call (480) 962-9262.

Ecuador Earthquake Aid
Continued from pg. 27

Thousands more were in need of food, water, clothing and shelter," he says.

When Brother Smith learned his friend Dr. Herrera was mounting efforts to collect food, clothing and other necessities, he helped him set up a GoFundMe account to raise money to purchase needed items. (See <https://www.gofundme.com/2645rwpk>.)

Still, Brother Smith felt more needed to be done—and it needed to be done faster.

He called the Church's Welfare Services office. Speaking to the director, Steve Peterson, Brother Smith explained that, while he was a member of the Church, he was calling as Honorary Consul of Chile to request aid food and tents for the victims of the earthquake.

"Brother Peterson said he would see what could be done," explains Brother Smith. "The very next day, Don Johnson from Welfare Services called to inform me they had a truck on the road from Salt Lake to Mesa and that the truck was loaded with rice and beans and tents."

The truck held 22 pallets of supplies, enough to fill a 53'-long semi-trailer. It weighed 21 tons, and included

1600 large bags—400 each of pinto beans, black beans, white beans and rice. Also included were 100 large tents that sleep up to six adults.

According to the arrangements that had been made, when the truck arrived at the Bishops' Storehouse in Mesa, the supplies were unloaded, then loaded on another truck contracted by Consul Herrera and the Government of Ecuador to deliver the supplies to Los Angeles, where they were put on a ship to Ecuador.

As Brother Smith and Dr. Herrera watched from the storehouse dock, "We marveled about the miracle we had just experienced," says Brother Smith. "We both could feel our Heavenly Father's love and concern for His sons and daughters in Ecuador."

Dr. Herrera agrees, saying, "I would like to express my most profound gratitude for the generosity and the gesture of goodwill brought to pass by my friend, Patricio Smith and for the members of the LDS Church, for their contributions and sacrifices to help the Ecuadorian people. Please be assured that the food and tents will be delivered to the people that are in real need."



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IN THE MOMMY ZONE...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

My Imperfect Parenting Plan

We have a busy, involved family of eight, complete with a busy, hectic schedule. Of course, I have it all under control... or at least I think I do.

I am an organizer, a meticulous planner. I mapped out my life before age 12, including when I married, when I graduated from college, and when my children would be born, each child spaced out evenly every two years.

So far, my life's game plan has been accurate, for the most part.

As our four eldest sons mature, every two years I have been blessed to celebrate either a baptism, a priesthood advancement, or a treasured mother's first date as each son in turn commemorates his 16th birthday.

Preparing my children to serve church missions has forever driven my mothering equation, embodying an ultimate goal for each child and, of course, equally distributing their service every two years—as my life's planning guide demands.

Our oldest son completed an honorable mission and is now happily toiling away pursuing a college degree. Our second son departed for his mission a mere eight months ago, after finishing his freshman

year in college, and is currently serving in a faraway, foreign land.

Our third son is a senior in high school, fully experiencing the best year of his young life in academics, sports, and music. Our three youngest children are happy and involved, just like I planned. Yes, things are functioning quite smoothly according to my "Mommy Zone" plan, or so I thought...

However, unbeknownst to me, our third son had created a different agenda, a vision that conflicted with my meticulous and omniscient maternal plan 22 years in the making, wreaking havoc upon my grandiose mothering timetable.

Just yesterday, he announced he made an appointment with our bishop to start his own mission application papers.

Wait, what?

My mind began to reel, questions incessantly baraging my thoughts.

You're barely eighteen years old and still a senior in high school. You haven't even heard from all of the universities you've applied to yet. What about all of the college scholarships you've earned? What about my two-year mission rotation plan? We already have a missionary serving from our family—how can I send another, simultaneously, so soon?

My head swirled from the unsettling scenarios clouding my judgment. I felt my heart bursting at the

thought of sending another missionary off for an additional two long years. To be honest, I still hadn't fully recovered from boarding our second son on a plane bound for a Central American mission last summer.

But then a clarifying thought immediately absolved my confusion.

Was it not my own meticulous plan, put in motion 22 years ago, to raise worthy children capable of serving honorable missions? Was it not my own desire to give them one of life's greatest opportunities for personal growth and sacrifice?

I realized my third son's altruistic mission plans couldn't have been more perfectly timed at that poignant moment. I discovered that I must shelf my own antiquated, sentimental mothering designs for a time and quite possibly forever. I needed to fully support my son's decision, whatever that entailed, even if it didn't agree with my personal timetable.

We've been tremendously blessed to have two missionary sons serve. If we deliver a third, our family will be blessed beyond measure no doubt, especially if two brothers serve simultaneously.

I don't know what will happen. Only time will tell. But I do know my old mothering planner will be shelved, deservedly retiring after two glorious decades, while my son and I fashion a new agenda—together.

Promotional Feature

Endeavor In-Home Care

Brings Education, Compassion to Clients

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

As baby boomers age, the need for senior care is rising. Many families want to keep aging loved ones with them or help them to be independent for as long as possible, and finding quality help can be difficult.

Endeavor In-Home Care opened its doors in March of 2015. They offer Senior Companion Care, Post-Surgery Rehab, Physical Disabilities Support, Alzheimer's/Dementia Care, Parkinson's Care, VA Aid and Attendance Program, Electronic Home Monitoring Systems, Hospice Support, Referrals, LTC and Quick Visits.

Endeavor In-Home Care's founders, Dave and Nancy Rodgers, both had a few tender, life-changing family caregiving experiences. They were inspired to build a company that would bring a new level of love, joy, and care into the lives of clients and their families.

"We wanted to serve others and knew we could create a system that offered a higher quality of in-home support and care," says Rodgers.

Endeavor offers help on many levels, from 24/7 home care to education and mini-visits.

"We encourage families and help educate them to care for their loved ones, then Endeavor can fill in the gaps," says Rodgers.

Their team of caregivers includes Certified Nurs-

ing Assistants, Certified Home Health Aides, Registered Nurses, and Emergency Medical Technicians. Their caregivers average over ten years of experience.

Caregivers offer companionship through sharing stories, going for walks, making crafts and lending helping hands. They assist in light housekeeping, meal preparation, personal care, respite care, transportation for running errands, grocery shopping, and doctor's appointments.

Rodgers says that one important facet of Endeavor is education. Brian Browne, MS, the CSA Education & Outreach Director at Banner Research Center, is often a speaker and part of their Endeavor Memory Care Educational Series offered at Leisure World and other communities. "After the Dementia Diagnosis-Effective Care Giving Strategies" is one such program.

"We don't focus on being old, we focus on the future. We use the sunrise as the cornerstone of our endeavors. We focus on where we are going, not where we are at," says Rodgers.

Rodgers, a member of the Mt. View Stake, says, "I feel as the Savior washing the Apostles' feet. We are serving clients in the most humble needs possible, trying to walk in the Savior's footsteps. We show compassion and empathy in its purest. We go about washing people's feet as the Savior would want us to do, to serve others."



Photo courtesy of Dave Rodgers

Endeavor Home Care began in 2015 with (from left to right) Quincy Bosley, former customer service specialist, owners and founders Nancy and Dave Rodgers, and Keren Montandon, community liaison. Today Endeavor employs over 80 staff and caregivers.

For more information and to contact Endeavor Senior Home Care, go to www.EndeavorHomeCare.com or call 877-584-6162

Spero Systems *Delivers on Water Storage Solutions*

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Imagine there's a water outage, yet you still have access to running water at your sinks, showers, toilets and washing machine. Impossible? Not anymore—Spero Systems WaterGuard is making it a reality.

Their 120- to 800-gallon tanks store, rotate and facilitate the flow of water for drinking, bathing, general hygiene, brushing teeth, taking medications, preparing food, rehydrating food storage, washing clothes and dishes, and cleaning.

The Spero Systems tank system is maintenance-free; whenever someone uses water in the home, they are in effect rotating it, refreshing the stored water every 24 - 48 hours.

Brother Joel Johnson, of the Lehi Stake, is the creator and developer of Spero Systems. He came up with a water usage system that isn't just for so-called "doomsday preppers," but for average Americans living in an unstable world that could produce water outages for any reason.

When choosing a name for the company, Johnson thought of "Spero" since it is Latin for "home."

Johnson says, "Our water system is a common sense approach for our world today, especially with

our aging infrastructure."

"One of the goals is to eliminate maintenance. Second, food storage, including freeze dried food, needs water. With Spero Water System, there isn't a need to pull your water from a barrel. This system puts the water back into the house, running from all of your water sources, and helps you keep your same standard of living," says Johnson.

According to FEMA, every household should have a two-week supply of water for each family member.

Johnson says, "Every day our nation's water supply is vulnerable to contamination, natural disasters, terrorist attacks, infrastructure failure, and pandemics, just to name a few."

"Any type of water outage is hard on family members, and especially difficult on kids and the elderly. But if you have the Spero Water System, you have fresh water. If the water source is cut off for any reason, your WaterGuard patented re-pressurized system provides running water to your whole house automatically," he says.

Johnson and his family tested and lived on the system for two days. All their water came from the storage tank.

"It was very peaceful [knowing] that I could jump in the shower, clothes could be in the wash, dishwasher running, and all was well. This is the purpose for the system. Your standard of living remains uninterrupted."

The system is available in Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Virginia, Louisiana, Kansas, Colorado, Texas and California. "We are working our way to national recognition of our brand," says Johnson.

For more information or to inquire about the system go to www.sperosysteminc.com or call 602-892-4763. Spero Systems Inc. is located at 7702 E. Doubletree Ranch Road, Suite 300, Scottsdale, AZ 85258.



Photo courtesy of Spero Systems Inc.

Joel Johnson's years of experience as a luxury home builder, as well as his interest in home solutions and emergency preparedness, propelled him to create Spero Systems.



Things to Do & See in Arizona

HometownN Tourist

Get to Know Phoenix!

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

Like its namesake, Phoenix rises up out of scorching heat—in the minds of most, an unlikely metropolis of urban villages, ranches, and lush golf courses against spaghetti western skies. Ask any native, though, and they'll tell you that Phoenix is far more than just a triple-digit cowtown.

We've got castles...

The Valley seems an unlikely locale for castles, but it's got at least three that warrant a visit. Tovrea Castle, the multi-tiered structure known locally as the "Wedding Cake," was completed in 1931. After a period of deterioration, the castle was renovated for the state centennial and now offers tours of the basement, first floor, and grounds.

Mystery Castle, located near South Mountain, dates from the same peri-

od—the castle, hewn out of local rock, was the brainchild of Boyce Gully. He came to Phoenix after being diagnosed with tuberculosis and built the 18-room house (with its own chapel, dungeon and cantina) for the little princess he left behind, daughter Mary Lou. Mary Lou lived in the castle and gave tours of her fairytale home, still open to the public.

Finally, if you like golf but you're not quite ready for the Biltmore greens, Castles and Coasters off the 1-17 has been around for years as a family fun spot, offering mini golf, rides and games to kids of all ages.

...and culture

Phoenix has a museum to suit everyone. As with most major cities, the Valley has its own science museum, symphony, theatre and a flourishing art scene—in addition to the Phoenix Art Museum, monthly First Friday cross-gallery openings lure art lovers to the

urban core.

For music aficionados, the Valley's own world class Musical Instrument Museum opened in 2010. The largest museum of its type, it represents the sounds of seven continents with more than 15,000 instruments, thrilling visitors in an immersive audio-visual experience.

Phoenix recognizes its native culture in the Heard, a Valley staple since



Photo courtesy of Kirs10/Wikimedia Commons

Long heralded as the "Wedding Cake," Phoenix's Tovrea Castle has overlooked the Valley since the 1930s.



Photo courtesy of Kirs10/Wikimedia Commons

The Heard Museum of Native Cultures and Art at the heart of Phoenix is a living museum that educates visitors about America's many indigenous cultures.

Continued on pg. 33

Arizona Temples Included in 320-page *Keepsake Tribute* to Latter-day Temple Building

Artist and historian Chad S. Hawkins has traveled to six continents over the past 25 plus years, following his dream and his devotion to create inspiring illustrations of latter-day temples and chronicling special stories and little-known trivia about them.

As a result, Chad's temple artwork has been chosen to be placed in the cornerstones of 16 temples and has been published in a number of different formats, including in six books published by Deseret Book and on a wide variety of temple recommend holders.

His latest work is a 320-page Deseret Book publication: *Temples of the New Millennium: Facts, Stories, and Miracles from the First 150 Temples*. Released in commemoration of the dedication of the Provo City Center Temple, the Church's 150th operating temple, the book features illustrations of all 150 temples, along with

interesting facts and stories about each working temple, including the five in Arizona.

"It's the ultimate book about temples. There's not another like it. It's an almanac, an encyclopedia, of all the temples. I think people will go back to it, refer to it and love it for years to come," Chad says.

He admits that the task has been monumental as he has traveled around the globe to the more than 10 dozen temples, interviewed thousands of members and temple construction workers, and attempted to catalog and organize what he's learned, all while creating his signature illustrations, intended to convey the personality of each temple.

As difficult as it may have been, it's been a rewarding endeavor, Chad says, one that has deepened his love and regard for the houses of the Lord that dot the earth.

In an audio clip on his website

about the Mesa Temple, Chad says, "As I have visited most of the temples ... I've realized that every temple has its own unique spirit, architecture and design. They're all the same in the most important ways but they all do have their own unique look and feel."

"They each seem to have their own personality," much of which comes from true stories of faith and miracles behind each of the temples, he says.

One such story included in *Temples of the New Millennium* is about the "Cookie Days" that occurred during the two-year construction of the Phoenix Arizona Temple. Wards in the temple district were given the opportunity to provide 200 treats and snacks for the workers Phoenix Temple on what became known as "Cookie Days." Wards

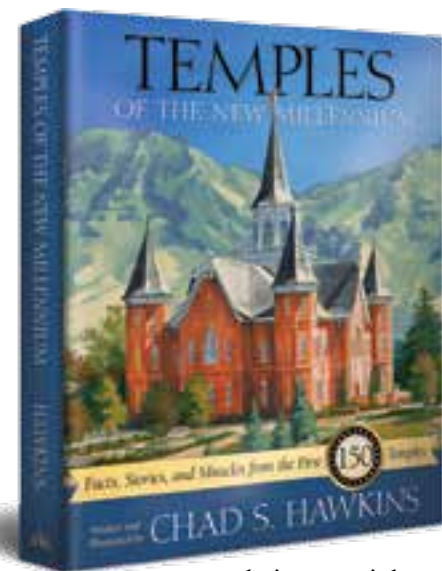


Photo courtesy Chad Hawkins

Temples of the New Millennium, written and illustrated by Chad Hawkins, is a showcase of the unique architecture and inspirational stories of each of the 150 working temples, including the five in Arizona.

made it a special tradition, including a spiritual thought, quote or "thank you" with each of the treats.

While Chad stays busy doing a lot of illustrations, especially of missionaries and couples, and loves making personalized temple recommend holders for ward and stake youth conferences and other events, he maintains he will always enjoy telling the stories and sharing his special depictions of temples.

The beautiful, comprehensive tribute to latter-day temple building, *Temples of the New Millennium*, is available now at Deseret Book and other LDS bookstores or at *deseret-book.com*. To contact Chad, visit www.chadhawkins.com.

1929 and one of the finest of its kind, which boasts an internationally-renowned collection of Native American arts and artifacts historic and modern.

Beyond that, Phoenix plays host annually to fairs and events that range from the Japanese Matsuri festival to the Scottish highland games and the Heard's Guild Indian Fair and Marketplace.

...and creatures from another planet?

Perhaps it's the 1953 *War of the Worlds* (filmed in town) that draws them, or maybe it's an earlier call—the inhabitants of Phoenix's own Pueblo Grande were keen astronomers—but it's rumored that Phoenix may have welcomed tourists of the extraterrestrial variety.

In 1997, the sighting of mysterious v-shaped lights over the Valley sparked such a frenzy that it prompted a press conference, a spread in *USA Today*, national news coverage and at least one direct-to-dvd movie. Theories from military flare drops to interplanetary visitors abound, but the phenomenon remains unexplained. With recurrences in 2007 and 2008, the enigma of the Phoenix Lights continues to captivate the world, and Phoenix even hosts the International UFO Congress annually.

Whether fun or far-out, Phoenix is the place to be.

Arizona Senate President Andy Biggs Is Willing To

STAND FOR FREEDOM

By Robin Finlinson
The Beehive

Named a "Friend of Liberty" and "Champion of the Taxpayer," Senator Andy Biggs took Arizona from a \$3 billion deficit to a balanced budget—saving the state many millions of dollars. He is President of the Arizona State Senate and a member of the Gilbert Stake.

Brother Biggs grew up in Tucson in a home with five surviving children; his two oldest siblings were twins who died in infancy.

His father worked for Hughes Aircraft Company, and was transferred to California for several months when Biggs was four years old. That's when his family joined the church.

He remembers being sealed to his family in the Mesa Temple. Being five then, he was able to dress himself for that extraordinary occasion. However, on the way to the sealing room, he was instructed to change from his own "white" socks to a pair without red and black stripes at the top.

After serving a mission in Japan, Biggs earned a degree in Asian Studies and a minor in Japanese at BYU. "Sometimes I take little notes to myself

in Japanese during a meeting," he says.

He also has an M.A. in Political Science from ASU and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona. He is now retired from many years of practicing law.

He and Cindy, his wife, have been married for 30 years. They have six children and four grandchildren. In February, the couple had a hefty decision to make: United States Congressman Matt Salmon, who is not running for reelection in Arizona's 5th Congressional District, asked Biggs to run for his seat.

"It was a Friday evening," Biggs recalls. "I was out for date night with my wife. Matt called and said, 'Can I talk to you tomorrow?'" They conversed for about two hours that next day.

Biggs and his wife fasted and prayed together. "Every LDS couple should do those things when they make big decisions like that," he suggests.

Cindy told him, "I feel like it's your duty to do this. We'll make whatever arrangements we need to as a family."

Biggs admires Captain Moroni's willingness to stand up for freedom. "If



Photo courtesy of Senator Andy Biggs

Senator Andy Biggs (R) has been a state senator representing Arizona's District 12 since 2013. He is currently seeking election to the U.S. House to represent the state's 5th Congressional District.

you're not out there fighting, you really can't complain too much," says Biggs.

His years of public service and his books, *The Doctrine of Liberty* and *The Con of the Con-Con*, declare that he is whole-heartedly battling for freedom and prepared for a new battleground.

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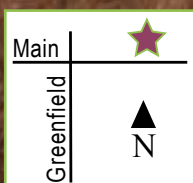
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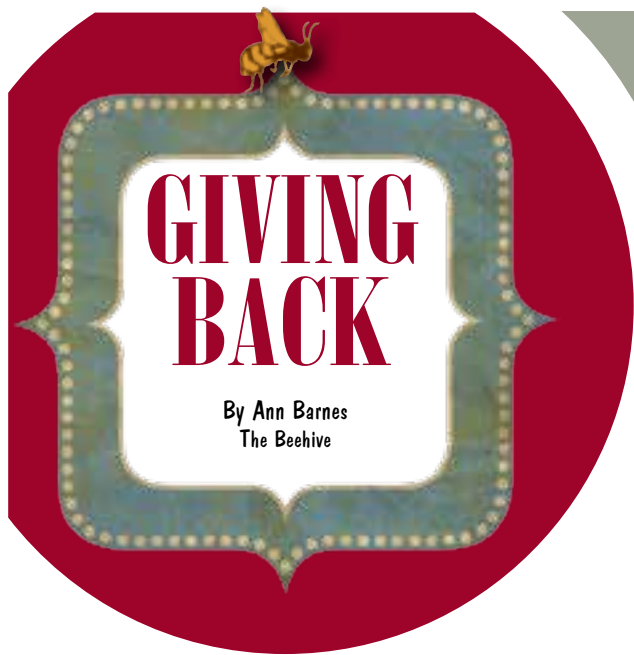


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Mesa United Way 12 Books Program



Photo courtesy of Mesa United Way

Mesa's 12 Books Program helps supply economically disadvantaged children with books.

project.

Mesa United Way's Read On 12 Books Program was introduced in May 2014 to reduce summer learning loss or summer brain drain. The school lunch program's statistics helped determine the income levels of schools where the need would be the greatest. To date, distribution events have been held at six elementary schools and have given over 10,000 books to 5,000 children.

Why twelve books? Research shows that one of the single largest success factors for kindergartners in low income households is access to books. The research also indicates that the key is providing the right level of reading material as well as allowing each child to self-select books of interest. Self-selecting books helps instill a love of reading. The first six books are preselected—that is, all children get the same six books. The fun really begins when they get to choose for themselves the remaining six books.

"The kids are so excited to pick out their very own books, that most of the time they usually sit down on the floor and just start reading the first book they get," says Mullen. "They are having so much fun reading that it's often difficult to get them to move on and finish their selection."

So what can the community do to help? The program always needs books. 12 Books is run by the generous donations and service from the Mesa community. Donors hold book drives, collect gift cards, clean, sort and box books. Book drives are popular

with the Girl Scouts and are a great Eagle Project. Volunteer readers are also needed.

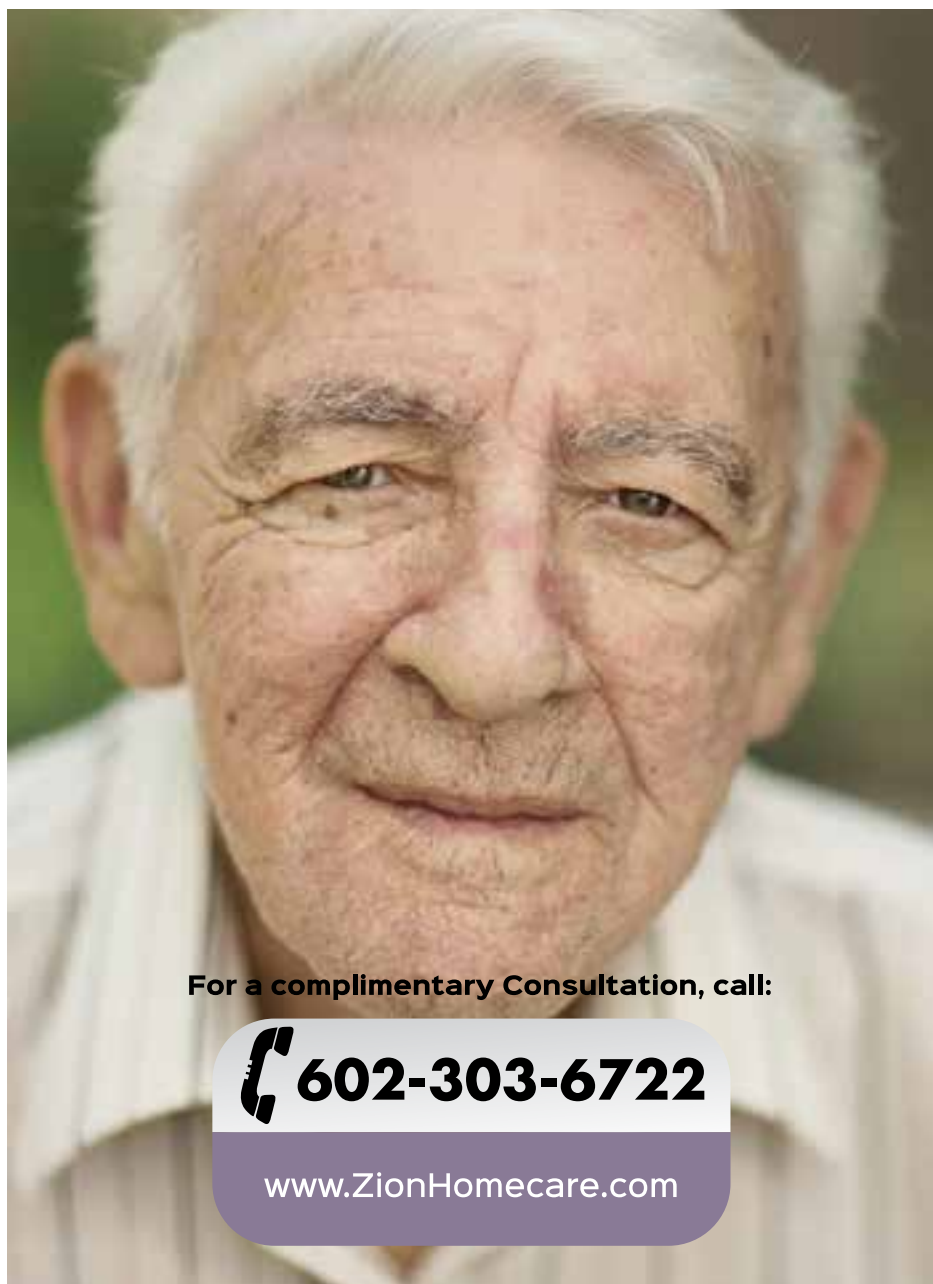
"Please thank the LDS community for the ongoing support of this program. It's been wonderful," says Mullen.

Another item on the list of things the 12 Books program needs is a place with lots of space. "We are looking for space to store our books, hold cleaning events and prepare for distribution events," says Mullen. "Something with easy access—books are heavy."

For more information about Mesa's Read On 12 Books Program, visit www.mesaunitedway.org/12books where you can also listen to a podcast presented by Mayor John Giles and Patty Mullen. Contact Patty Mullen at patricia.mullen@mesaunitedway.org or 480-834-2124 to learn more about organizing a book drive or volunteering. There is also an Amazon wish list called 12 Books where donors can order books and send them directly to Mesa United Way.

Could you ever image your home without books? Impossible though it may seem in today's society, hundreds of school-age children live here in Mesa under those very circumstances. These children represent lower income areas where residents have no books or have never visited a library. The 12 Books Program, which provides children in targeted schools with a dozen books for summer reading, is a response to this literacy gap.

The City of Mesa learned about the 12 Books Program when attending a conference two years ago in Tucson. They were so impressed by what they heard that they returned to Mesa and began taking steps to implement the program under the sponsorship of the Mesa United Way. Patty Mullen, Read On Mesa Coordinator, had recently retired from the corporate world and was looking for a way to use her skills as a volunteer. As an Encore Fellow, Patty's professional skills were a perfect match as someone to head up the



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LDS Youth Jump & Jive at Mormon Prom

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church-sponsored dances
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Dylan Rich and his date Dakota Cameron attended the tri-stake "MoPro" this past April. Both enjoyed the decorations and carnival games, but really appreciated the dance's high standards.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo